

What is Claimed is:

1. A food grater comprising:
at least three grating panels including a first end panel, a middle panel and a third end panel, the middle panel disposed between and hingedly connected to the first and third end panels, the first and third end panels comprising a latch mechanism for detachably connecting the first end panel to the third end panel.
2. The food grater of claim 1 wherein the first, middle and third panels each have truncated triangular shapes so that when the first panel is connected to the third panel, the grater has a truncated triangular pyramid configuration.
3. The grater of claim 1 further comprising a triangular cap, the first, middle and third panels each having a top edge, the cap being capable of mateably receiving the top edges of the first, middle and third panels when the first panel is connected to the middle panel.
4. The grater of claim 3 wherein the cap is hingedly connected to one of the grating panels.
5. The grater of claim 1 wherein the middle panel is connected to the first and third panels by living hinges.
6. The grater of claim 5 wherein each grating panel comprises a metallic grating panel surrounded by a plastic frame, the frames of the middle and first panels forming the living hinge connecting the middle panel to the first panel and the frames of the middle and third panels forming the living hinge connecting the middle panel to the third panel.
7. The grater of claim 1 wherein each grating panel comprises a plastic outer frame molded around a metallic plate.
8. The grater of claim 6 wherein the frames also comprise foot rests on lower edges thereof.

9. The grater of claim 6 wherein the frames comprise injection molded styrene.

10. The grater of claim 1 wherein each grating panel comprises one or more grating elements and wherein each panel performs a different grating function than the other panels.

11. The grater of claim 1 wherein the panels are uniformly rectangular in shape.

12. The grater of claim 1 wherein each panel comprises one or more outwardly protruding grating elements and the first and third panels can be folded over the middle panel so that the one or more outwardly protruding grating elements of the middle panel are covered by either the first or third panels and the one or more outwardly protruding grating elements of the first and the third panels are facing towards the middle panel when the grater is in a folded and collapsed position.

13. The grater of claim 1 further comprising two middle panels disposed between and hingedly connected to the first and third end panels.

14. A food grater comprising:
three grating panels including a first panel, a second panel and a third panel, the second panel disposed between and hingedly connected to the first and third panels, the first and third panels comprising a latch mechanism for detachably connecting the first panel to the third panel,
each panel further comprises one or more outwardly protruding grating elements,
the first and third panels being foldable over the second panel so that the one or more outwardly protruding grating elements of the second panel are covered by either the first or third panels and the one or more outwardly protruding grating elements of the first and the third panels are facing towards the second panel when the first and third panels are folded over the second panel.

15. The food grater of claim 14 wherein the first, second and third panels each have truncated triangular shapes so that when the first panel is connected to the third panel, the grater has a truncated triangular pyramid configuration.

5 16. The grater of claim 14 further comprising a triangular cap and the first, second and third panels each have a top edge, the cap mateably receiving the top edges of the first, second and third panels when the first panel is connected to the second panel.

10 17. The grater of claim 14 wherein the cap is hingedly connected to one of the grating panels.

 18. The grater of claim 14 wherein the second panel is connected to the first and third panels by living hinges,
15 wherein each grating panel comprises a metallic grating panel surrounded by a plastic frame, the frames of the second and first hinge forming the living hinge connecting the second panel to the first panel and the frames of the second and third panels forming the living hinge connecting the second panel to the third panel.

20 19. A food grater comprising:
 three grating panels including a first panel, a second panel and a third panel, the second panel disposed between and hingedly connected to the first and third panels, the first and third panels comprising a latch mechanism for detachably connecting the first panel to the third panel, wherein each panel comprises one or
25 more outwardly protruding grating elements and the first and third panels can be folded over the second panel so that the one or more outwardly protruding grating elements of the second panel are covered by either the first or third panels and the one or more outwardly protruding grating elements of the first and the third panels are facing towards the second panel,
30 the first, second and third panels each have truncated triangular shapes so that when the first panel is connected to the third panel, the grater has a truncated triangular pyramid configuration,

 the grater further comprising a triangular cap,

the first, second and third panels each have a top edge, the cap being capable of mateably receiving the top edges of the first, second and third panels when the first panel is connected to the second panel,

the cap is hingedly connected to one of the grating panels.

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20. The grater of claim 19 wherein each grating panel comprises a plastic outer frame molded around a metallic plate.